

1990-91 (April-March)	1991-92 (April-March)
Rs. 200.00 Crores	Rs. 152.90 Crores

(b) Exim Bank have reported that since the rediscounting facility to commercial banks is on a portfolio basis and not on a transaction basis, they do not have information relating to the number of small scale units benefitted under the scheme during a particular period.

[Translation]

Waiving of Loans of Farmers and Weavers

6011. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of loans proposed to be provided to farmers and weavers separately by the nationalised banks in various States in 1992-93;

(b) the amount of loans of weavers waived-of so far in the various States; and

(c) the amount of loans to be waived-of during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Banks do not fix State-wise/ year-wise targets for providing financial assistance to various categories of borrowers. However, Public Sector Banks have been asked to raise their proportion of their credit to priority sector to 40% of their total advances. Direct Finance extended to agriculture (including allied activities) is to reach 18% of their total credit and the advances to weaker sections, which includes small and marginal farmers and landless cultivators

and artisans, are to reach a level of 10% of their total credit or 25% of the priority sector advances.

(b) and (c). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 under which debt relief was extended to eligible borrowers including farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas only, to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower to cover all overdues on short-term and term loans advanced by the public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks, w.e.f. 15th May, 1990. The total amount of relief provided by all credit institutions under the scheme was Es. 7714.14 crores. No separate category-wise break-up of relief provided is available since the reporting system does not generate such information. The Scheme of debt relief has already come to an end on 31.3.1991.

Construction of Berths at Kandla Port

6012. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct more berths at Kandla Port in addition to Seventh berth under construction at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal for construction of 8th General Cargo Berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 37.20 crores was received from Kandla Port Trust. It has been referred back to the Port for obtaining views of Ill Madras regarding the design and location of the berth.